

02-174

Form 10-300  
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:
Virginia
COUNTY:
Albemarle
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

1. NAME
COMMON:
The Miller School of Albemarle
AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN:			
Miller School			
STATE	CODE	CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:	CODE
Virginia	51	Seventh, J. Kenneth Robinson	003

3. CLASSIFICATION			
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BuildingS <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work In progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY
OWNER'S NAME:
c/o R. J. Lawton, Superintendent
STREET AND NUMBER:
The Miller School of Albemarle
CITY OR TOWN:
Miller School
STATE:
Virginia
CODE
51

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Albemarle County Court House
STREET AND NUMBER:
CITY OR TOWN:
Charlottesville
STATE
Virginia
CODE
51

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
TITLE OF SURVEY:
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey
DATE OF SURVEY: 1972
<input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission
STREET AND NUMBER:
Room 1116 Ninth Street State Office Building
CITY OR TOWN:
Richmond
STATE:
Virginia
CODE
51

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:
Virginia
COUNTY:
Albemarle
ENTRY NUMBER
DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

## 7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Main Building, the Mechanical Arts Building and the Superintendent's House at the Miller School of Albemarle are the noteworthy examples of High Victorian Gothic. The complex occupies a hill surrounded by the rich bottom lands of Mechum's River. Farmhouses, cottages and a modern dormitory are scattered on the outskirts of the campus.

The E-shaped Main Building was originally built as a 'T'; the north and south wings completing the 'E' were added later. This building is two stories high with an English basement and a slate mansard roof. The walls are laid in unbonded brick with highlights picked out in stone forming a constructional or permanent bichrome. A pointed segmentally arched portico opens off the central pavilion on the west side. The piers supporting the portico are bichrome and have panels. A rosette motif with boss appears in the spandrel above the arch. The doorway under the portico has a pointed segmental arch over a large transom. Stone steps with low stone sides lead to the north and south doorways opening onto the first floor. These doorways have wide stone, lancet arches with a dripstone springing from brick pilasters on stone bases. The windows in the stone ground level have six-over-six wooden sashes. The tall narrow windows on the second floor have a stone dripstone and six-over-six sashes with large lights. A stone course surrounds the building at the sill level of the window and at the bottom of the dripstone. A stone belt course runs immediately above the windows. The second floor windows incorporate similar features, but are capped by a segmentally arched dripstone. In the projecting pavilions, there are three lancet windows with dripstones on the second floor. In each of the gables of the pavilions is a trefoil window with a row of three quatrefoil windows opening immediately below. The mansard roof is pierced by steep gabled dormers with lancet arched windows.

The Main Building was designed to house most of the activities, other than the Industrial Arts, carried out by the school. The mess hall on the first floor and the chapel on the second occupy the main bar of the 'E'. In other sections of the building, high-ceilinged square rooms open off long halls with high ceilings. A wide stairway with symmetrically divided flights and elaborately carved and incised newels ascends at the juncture of the center 'E' bar and the west section, and is lit by a skylight. A stair with an elaborate newel also ascends in each of the wings.

The mechanical Arts Building, a rectangular brick building with stone highlights, has a tall clock tower with a steep pyramidal roof on the southwest corner, and a low tower with a similar roof on the other three corners. This building has been enlarged two bays to the east. The two-story structure has a partial English basement and a slate mansard roof. The doorway in the tower has a rounded arch with four stone keystone elements and a triangularly

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

6. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Pre-Columbian ☐ 16th Century ☐ 18th Century ☐ 20th Century  
☐ 15th Century ☐ 17th Century ☒ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |   |   |  |  |
|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric    | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering          | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic       | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry             | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture    | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention            | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture   | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape            | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art            | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture         | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce       | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature           | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military             |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation   | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                |  |  |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

When Samuel Miller died on March 27, 1869, he left a will with a large bequest that was to fund a school in Albemarle County on the "Manual Labor Principle". This school was to be a charitable institution to benefit the underprivileged and economically deprived children of the county. Only one of Miller's designated executors, N. M. Page, survived to bear the burden of administering the estate of nearly two million dollars. From this, Miller provided for his family, left \$151,000 to the Lynchburg Female Orphan Asylum, \$20,000 to the city of Lynchburg and the residue to found the Miller Manual Labor School of Albemarle. The establishment of this school had long been the dream of Samuel Miller, who himself was born into poverty in Albemarle County.

The work upon the main building was begun in 1874, although the school was not incorporated by the General Assembly until 1877. The west front section of the Main Building with the central wing was completed in 1878, the south wing in 1881 and the north in 1883, all at the cost of \$140,000. The architects were Captain Albert M. Lybrock and D. Wiley Anderson of Richmond. This building was and is the scene of all academic, residential and religious activities. The machine shop building was completed in 1882 at the cost of \$50,000. This building housed the forges, the mechanic shop, the metal and the woodworking shops. These buildings and the superintendent's house were built in the popular High Victorian Gothic style, and are excellent examples of this architectural mode. The first superintendent of the school, C. E. Vawter, and the executor, Page, were instrumental in having the construction of the buildings move on schedule, and the school begin instruction. Vawter is largely responsible for the early success of the school in carrying out Miller's tenets.

The Miller School of Manual Labor admitted both male and female students until the early twentieth century, after which it was an institution for males only. The name was later changed to the Miller School of Albemarle. In the middle of the twentieth century it became a military school with a Defense Department classification of "an honor school with distinction." The Miller School continues to pursue its founder's purpose in

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

# 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Files of Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission.

# 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	38° 00' 43"	78° 42' 21"				
NE	38° 00' 43"	78° 41' 44"				
SE	38° 00' 15"	78° 41' 44"				
SW	38° 00' 15"	78° 42' 21"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 90 acres

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:		DATE
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff		
ORGANIZATION		January, 1973
STREET AND NUMBER:		
Room 1116 Ninth Street State Office Building		
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE	CODE
Richmond	Virginia	51

# 12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

# NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☒ Local ☐

Name

J. R. Fishburne, Director  
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

Title

Date

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Virginia	
COUNTY	
Albemarle	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

7. arched dripstone. Tall, narrow double hung wooden windows with four-over-four sash and stone jack arches open on both the first and second levels of the west facade. The windows opening on the first floor on the sides of the building have segmental arches with stone keystones. The second floor windows have stone flat arches. Gabled dormers pierce the mansard roof. All of these windows have six-over-six sash. A bell is visible throughout the rounded arches of the belfry atop the southwest tower. On the interior, this building retains the original drive shafts from which all the machinery was operated. A few drive belts continue to power certain tools still in use daily.

West of these principle school buildings stands the superintendent's house. The brick ell-shaped building has an enclosed flat-roofed porch tower; the original tower roof has been removed. A mansard roof is retained over the front of the house. A wide wooden cornice surrounds the house. A belt course of brick in a decorative pattern also encircles the building. A lancet arch forms the exterior doorway in the porch tower leading to double doors with a clover-leaf motif, bosses and large glass panels of patterned frosted glass. The first floor windows have flat arches, the second floor -- segmental, and the third story tower windows -- drop arches. All have stone dripstones. A small terrace opens off the south window in the east bay. A balcony opens just over the doorway in the porch tower, and another over the bay window to the east.

The house has a central hall plan with two rooms opening off it to the east and one to the west. The ell runs to the north. A closed string stair with an elaborately carved square newel and turned balusters ascends in the cross hall at the rear of the central hall. The wainscoting in the rooms is composed of vertical boards between the molded baseboard and chair rail with rosettes. The doorways have molded trim with incised corner blocks and carved lintels. The soffits of the doorways are panelled; the doors have four panels and occasionally some incision at the top panel. The arch at the bottom of the stair has a geometrically patterned screen. Window trim is similar to the doorway trim. Fireplaces are elaborately decorated with cabinet mantels employing classical revival columns, urns and swags, or incised and marblized spandrels, cartouches and pilasters.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Virginia	
COUNTY	
Albemarle	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

8. teaching Industrial Arts, although it also offers a college preparatory course. Most of the students presently mix the two courses of study gaining competence in both. And the school continues to offer a large number of scholarships to enable students to receive a private school education.

Miller School was a pioneer in the use of electric lighting. As early as 1885, electricity was installed in the buildings and proved "to be as cheap as kerosene, while it has banished lamp-lighters, explosions, foul air and sore eyes." The school purchased and installed for its electrical plant the second special type of generator for community lighting. This generator is now at the Ford Museum in Dearborn, Michigan.

The Miller School is significant as the pioneer of industrial education in Virginia and in the South. At the time of its inception, only the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the Worcester County Free Institute, both in New England, were offering a similar program of education. Neither of these emphasized the idea of manual labor, as Miller had wished, and as Vawter designed the school to have. Vawter created a unique educational facility on the basis that manual labor is honorable and rewarding. Miller graduates received exacting instruction in iron, metal and woodworking, and mechanics, and were soon in demand throughout the nation. The Miller school today continues to embody the same principles and practices established by its founders.

G.H.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE Virginia	
COUNTY Albemarle	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: The Miller School of Albemarle			
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN: Miller School			
STATE: Virginia	CODE: 51	COUNTY: Albemarle	CODE: 003
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE:			
U.S.G.S. 7 1/2 ' quadrangle Crozet, Va.			
SCALE: 24000			
DATE: 1965			
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE Virginia	
COUNTY Albemarle	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

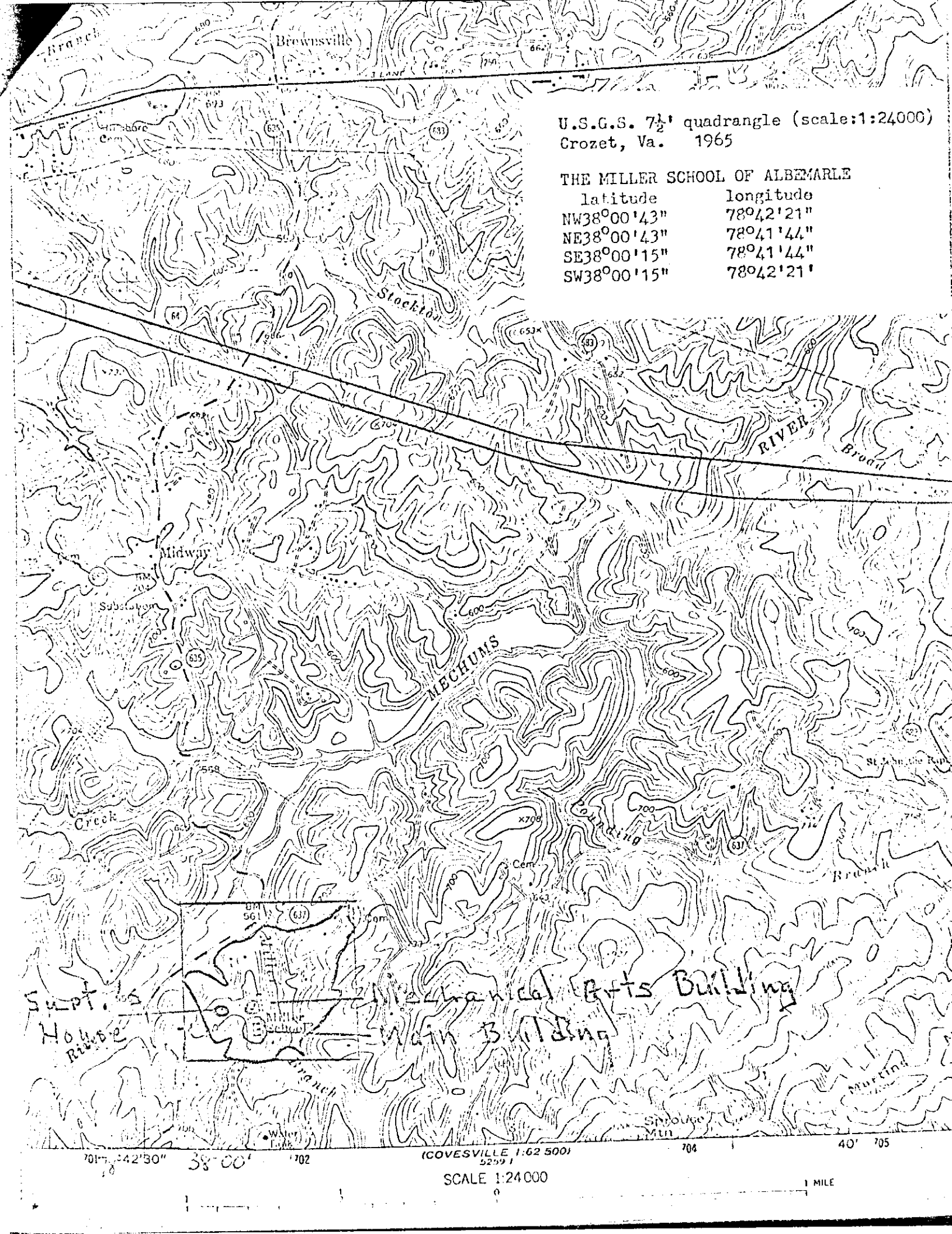
SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: The Miller School of Albemarle			
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN: Miller School			
STATE: Virginia	CODE: 51	COUNTY: Albemarle	CODE: 003
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission			
DATE OF PHOTO: 1972			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission; Richmond, Va.			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.			
1. View of Mechanical Arts Building from the west.			

U.S.G.S. 7½' quadrangle (scale:1:24000)  
Crozet, Va. 1965

THE MILLER SCHOOL OF ALBEMARLE

latitude	longitude
NW38°00'43"	78°42'21"
NE38°00'43"	78°41'44"
SE38°00'15"	78°41'44"
SW38°00'15"	78°42'21"



(COVESVILLE 1:62 500)  
52591

SCALE 1:24 000

1 MILE